

Introduction of COVID-19 Projections by the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)

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Objectives

- To provide brief introduction of COVID-19 projections by the Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)

Background

- Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)
 - independent population health research center at UW medicine
 - Vision: produce high-quality information on population health, its determinants, and the performance of health systems.
 - Global Burden of Disease (GBD)
- COVID-19 pandemic & impact
 - Started in Wuhan in December 2019 and soon became a global pandemic.
 - According to JHU, 10.7m confirmed infections and about 520k deaths.
 - Huge economic impact as well
- Purpose of the projections
 - Track the pandemic globally and prepare the governments and local hospitals for the impact of the pandemic
- What are our projections?
 - number of deaths, number of infections, hospital & ICU bed utilization & shortage
 - Human mobility, testing, mask use and Rn etc..
- The scope of our prediction
 - Duration: Feb 4th to Oct 1st, 2020
 - Locations: Most countries in the world

Data

- Deaths, Infections, Testing
 - JHU Coronavirus Resource Center, June 20
https://github.com/CSSEGISandData/COVID-19/tree/master/csse_covid_19_data
 - Government/ city departments' websites
 - newspapers (e.g. NY times)

- Hospital beds, ICU beds, Ventilators
 - American Hospital Association (AHA)
 - State department of health
 - Collaborators around the world

Data (cont.)

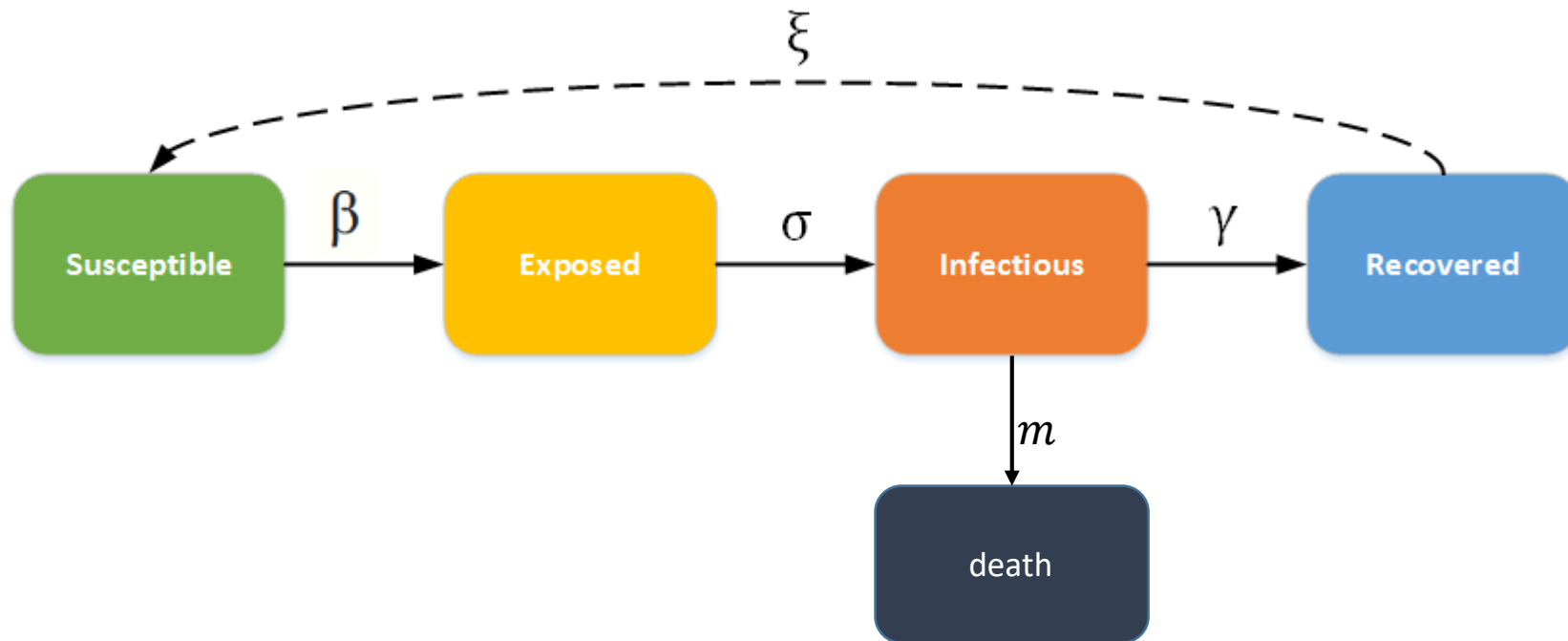
- People's mobility data
 - Descartes lab: <https://github.com/descarteslabs/DL-COVID-19>
 - Safegraph: <https://www.safegraph.com/dashboard/covid19-shelter-in-place?s=US&d=04-26-2020&t=states&m=index>
 - Google
 - Facebook
- Social distancing and mask use mandates
 - Government documents/ websites
- Mask use data
 - Premise data: <https://www.premise.com/are-americans-wearing-face-masks/>
 - Facebook Global symptom survey: <https://jpsm.umd.edu/research/facebook-%28covid%29-symptom-survey>

Data (cont.)

- Temperature → pneumonia mortality rate
- Air pollution
- Altitude (proportion of the population that live in locations that are under 100 m above sea level)
- Smoking prevalence
- Population density
- Other exploring covariates
 - human contact rates
 - use of public transit
 - Household size
 - Humidity

Methodology

- hybrid epidemiological compartment model (IHME-HSEIR)
 - Curve-fit model
 - SEIR model:



Methodology (cont.)

- Part 1: Estimating COVID-19 deaths and infections
- Part 2: Fitting and predicting disease transmission dynamics (the SEIR model)
- Part 3: Using independent drivers to inform the trend in the COVID-19 epidemic
 - social distancing policies
 - Changes in human mobility
 - COVID-19 testing per capita
 - Percentage of populations living in highly dense areas
 - Mask use

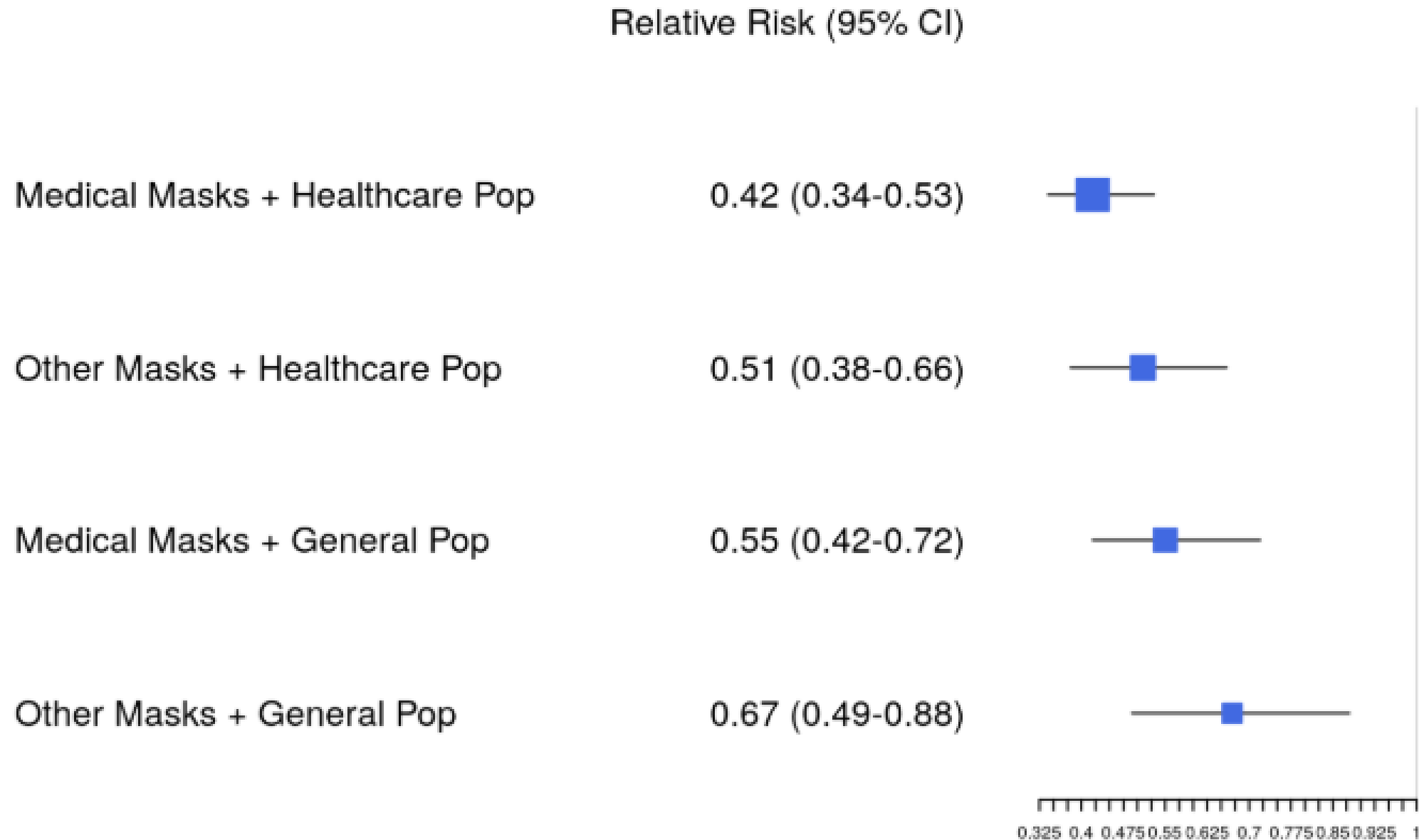
Example 1: human mobility and SD mandates

- Sources
 - Global: Google, Facebook
 - US: Google, Facebook, SafeGraph and Descartes Labs
- Processing
 - Standardization of different data sources
 - Smoothing by taking seven-day moving average
 - Producing composite time series of change in mobility (composite mobility score)
- Predictions
 - Use MR-BRT to estimate the effects of SD on changes in mobility and predict mobility
 - Smooth the residuals using ARIMA and predict residuals
 - Add the predicted smoothed residuals to the predicted mobility.

Example 2: effectiveness of mask and level of its use

- How effective are masks?
 - meta-analysis of peer-reviewed scientific studies to examine the effectiveness
 - 41 studies and use MR-BRT

Effectiveness of mask use (Forest plot)



Example 2: effectiveness of mask and level of its use

- How many people are wearing masks around the world?
 - Proportion of people reporting always wearing a mask when outside their home
 - Data sources: Premise (US) and Facebook Global symptom survey (other countries)
 - Covers 101 countries with subnational level data for key countries

Results

- Key findings from most recent release
 - US: By Oct 1st, cumulative COVID-19 deaths could reach 175,168 in the US
 - Predicted deaths (July to Sept): 52K
 - No mandates: 175K
 - Universal mask: 150K
 - About half the deaths that are predicted between now and October 1 would be avoided.
 - Global: Universal mask use could lead to reductions in mortalities by greater than 50% in many locations around the world

Discussion

- Strengths

- Prediction since Feb 5th, 2020
- Cover a key set of countries in the world
- Provide subnational projections for eight countries (Brazil, Canada, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Pakistan, Spain, US)
- Explicitly take into account variation in age-structure, which is a key driver of all-age mortality
- Dynamic systems to accommodate new info and demands

- Limitations

- Observed epidemic curves for COVID-19 deaths define the likely trajectory (Limited number of completed epidemic)
- Accuracy of reported deaths attributable to COVID-19
- Quantified the potential gap in physical resources, but there is an even larger potential gap in human resources (HR); no measure of healthcare quality
- Other covariates to consider: sex, the prevalence of co-morbidity, population density, individual behavior change not captured by mobility metrics, and a host of other individual factors that may potentially influence the immune response
- Estimating first wave of the pandemic

Model comparisons

Model	Data Access	Model Type	Geographies	Range
IHME – Hybrid SEIR	http://www.healthdata.org/covid/data-downloads	Hybrid SEIR + Curve fit	73 Countries	October 1
Youyang Gu	https://github.com/youyanggu/covid19_projections	SEIR	76 Countries	October 1
MIT – DELPHI	https://github.com/COVIDAnalytics/DELPHI	SEIR	151 Countries	6 weeks
Imperial–LMIC	https://github.com/mrc-ide/global-lmic-reports	SEIR	109 Countries	12 weeks
LANL– Growthrate	https://covid-19.bsvgateway.org/	Dynamic Growth	121 Countries	6 weeks

Summary

- The COVID-19 projections made by IHME are comprehensive efforts
- The pandemic is affecting more and more developing countries
- Social distancing and universal mask use are very important to control the pandemic

More info

- Pre-review paper:
 - IHME COVID-19 health service utilization forecasting team, and Christopher JL Murray. 2020. “Forecasting the Impact of the First Wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Hospital Demand and Deaths for the USA and European Economic Area Countries.” Preprint. Infectious Diseases (except HIV/AIDS). <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.04.21.20074732>.
- Visualization tool: <https://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america>
- Data download: <http://www.healthdata.org/covid/data-downloads>